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Gang Member Found Guilty of Panorama City Double Murders

A 21-year-old gang member was convicted by a jury today for the murders of two men found dead in their Panorama City apartment in 2012, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Scott Marcus of the Hardcore Gang Division said Edwin Lugo was found guilty of two counts of first-degree murder with special allegations of discharging a firearm causing death and the special circumstance allegation of multiple murders.

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Martin Herscovitz of the Van Nuys Branch is expected to sentence Lugo at a hearing on July 1 in Department R.

Lugo faces a state prison sentence of life without the possibility of parole.

On June 2, 2012, the defendant murdered Mario Martinez, 35, and Jaime Polino, 26, according to court testimony. Their bodies were discovered inside a Brimfield Avenue apartment each with a single gunshot wound to the head. The defendant and victims were rumored to be involved in criminal activities together, including burglaries and narcotics.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles Police Department, Mission Division.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the <u>Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office</u> prosecuted more than 73,000 felony defendants and 113,000 misdemeanor defendants.